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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)REPORT NO.           

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TOPIC Military Information from Cottbus

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DATE OF CONTENT 15 and 21 December 1950

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           December 1950, it was observed that the number of sentries around the billeting area of the Hermann-Loens-Kaserne, Cottbus (N 52/A 57), was increased. A JS tank followed by truck            which was occupied to capacity by soldiers, left the barracks installation. Truck            went from the installation toward the Sachsendorf Kaserne. Trucks            and passenger car            were identified in the yard of the Hermann-Loens-Kaserne. \*

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2. The officers from the Hermann-Loens-Kaserne and the Sachsendorf Kaserne were billeted in the houses opposite the Hermann-Loens-Kaserne. They wore tank and artillery insignia. \*
3. The Sachsendorf Kaserne had a billeting capacity of about 2,500 troops. All barracks buildings seemed to be fully occupied. In some of the buildings the beds were arranged in tiers of two; soldiers observed in the billeting area wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank insignia, and red epaulets. From 300 to 400 troops, organized in groups of about 20, were seen drilling in the adjoining terrain. They seemed to be recruits. A unit, of about 50 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, was seen entering the installation. Several groups of soldiers were also observed drilling in the barracks yards. Tanks of an undetermined type were seen through the open doors of the garages. Most of the trucks in the installation were parked under sheds.            identified in the barracks yard. \*

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4. Troops practicing with three 37-mm AA guns and two AA machine guns on tripod mounts, were observed at the Funker Kaserne. The two villas opposite the barracks installation were occupied by officers of the AAA unit in the Funker Kaserne.            two to four officers were billeted in one room. \*
5. The barracks installation on Vetschauer Strasse behind the hospital was destroyed or heavily damaged.            said that ration supplies were stored in some of the reconstructed buildings. The supplies were guarded by sentries. \*\*

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6. Small groups of artillery men were seen near the Alvensleben Kaserne, and [redacted] were seen entering the installation. The view into the billeting area was blocked. \*

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25X1 [redacted] December, a total of about 60 soldiers was observed drilling with 37-mm AA guns at the Funker Kaserne. The gun crews were relieved by other soldiers from the installation about every two hours.

8. About 30 soldiers practiced with three field guns on Alter Viehmarkt at the Alvensleben Kaserne.
9. Eight to 10 groups of soldiers assembled in the yard of the Sachsen-dorf Kaserne on 21 December. Five additional groups left the installation carrying field equipment and surveying devices.
10. About 40 soldiers were observed doing maintenance work on tanks in the Hermann-Loens-Kaserne during the morning hours of 21 December. \*

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25X1 \* [redacted] Comment. The report does not indicate any substantial change over information of 20 November [redacted] It indicates that the component units of the 9th Mecz Div in Cottbus were at the post on 21 December.

25X1 \*\* [redacted] Comment. The barracks installation on Vetschauer Strasse is believed to be the former German Army ration supply depot which is believed to be located on Vetschauer Strasse and used for the storage of Soviet ration supplies.

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